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On April 21, 2014, the City of St. Marys issued a Proclamation that read, in part, “Whereas, The Wilderness Act states, in part, *“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”*; and

Whereas, the City of St. Marys and its peoples have been blessed by the extraordinary environment and beauty of nearby Cumberland Island National Seashore – a designated Wilderness Area; and

Now, therefore, let it be proclaimed by the City of St. Marys that September 3 is hereby declared Wilderness Act Celebration Day. “

To further commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act, the City and the St. Marys EarthKeepers are hosting **Wild At Heart** – an environmental fair and community celebration. Organizations from throughout Georgia and beyond will be setting up booths that will offer information, interactive displays and more. “This family-friendly event offers us all a chance to learn more about environmental issues - and the many organizations that work to address those issues - as we come together to demonstrate our love and support for our extraordinary environment” states Alex Kearns, Chair of the St. Marys EarthKeepers.

The public is invited to Howard Gilman Memorial Park (St. Marys’ waterfront) on Saturday, September 6th, from 12 pm – 5 pm. Entertainment courtesy of the Friese Studio of Music & Performing Arts. Refreshments provided by For the Love of Pets.

According to St. Marys’ Mayor, John F. Morrissey, “Our City is honored and privileged to be “the gateway to Cumberland Island National Seashore and Wilderness Area.” This long term relationship has shaped our past, enhances our city and our visitor experiences, and enriches all of our futures. The Wild At Heart event offers us an opportunity to celebrate the Wilderness Act and all that it preserves locally and for our nation’s environmental wellbeing, economy and spirit.”

Participating organizations include (among others) The Southern Environmental Law Center, NOAA/Sea Grant, One Hundred Miles, The Satilla Riverkeeper, The Georgia Conservancy, The St. Marys EarthKeepers, Glynn Environmental, The St. Marys River Management Committee, The Center for a Sustainable Coast, White Oak Conservation Foundation, Crooked River State Park, Greenlaw, and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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